

## MEMORANDUM

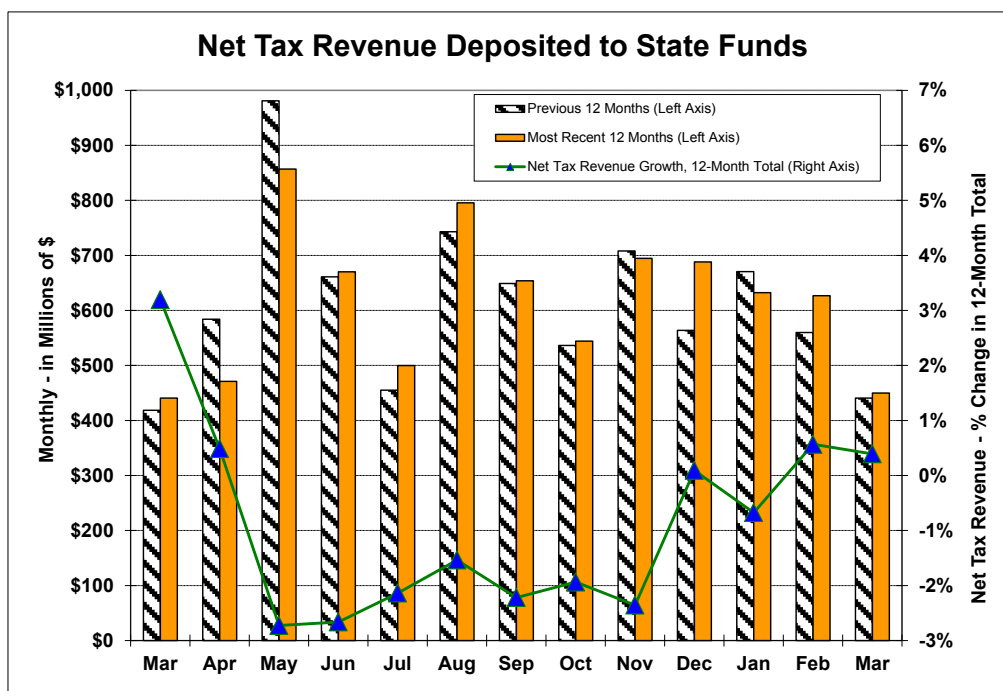
TO: Members of the Iowa Senate and  
Members of the Iowa House of Representatives

FROM: Jeff Robinson

DATE: April 29, 2015

### Twelve-Month Total Net Tax Receipts Through March 31, 2015

The attached spreadsheet presents net tax revenue deposited to State funds for the 12-month period ending March 2015 with comparisons to the previous 12 months. March 2014 to March 2015 one-month comparisons are also presented. The source of the information is the State accounting system, including non-General Fund accounts. All accounting transactions related to taxes remitted to the State were reviewed, along with the refunds issued against those taxes.



### Overview of Current Situation

The month of March 2015 posted low positive revenue growth at 2.0%. The 12-month revenue increase slipped a bit but remained positive at 0.4%. The processing of tax year 2014 individual income tax returns should provide a significant revenue boost during the months of April and May.

## Month of March 2015

March net tax receipts totaled \$449.9 million, an increase of \$9.0 million (2.0%) compared to March 2014. While growth in individual income tax (7.8%) and corporate income tax (16.9%) was strong for the month, sales/use tax deposits declined 12.1%. Sales tax revenue was adversely-impacted by increases in the amount of tax revenue transferred out of the deposit accounts for tax diversion programs like the Sales Tax Increment Fund, Local Option Sales Tax, Hotel/Motel Tax, and the one-cent sales tax dedicated to school infrastructure. A 24.0% increase in fuel tax revenue for March was likely the result of deposit timing issues that will reverse in April.

## Year-over-Year Comparison — Net Tax Revenue

During the 12-month period ending March 2015, net revenue from all taxes deposited to State funds totaled \$7.583 billion, an increase of \$29.7 million (0.4%), compared to the prior 12 months. Major contributors to the year-over-year dollar and percentage changes include:

- Individual Income Tax (negative \$93.6 million, -2.7%) – Due to an increase in the Iowa Earned Income Tax Credit, the new Iowa Taxpayer Trust Fund Tax Credit, and the FY 2013 one-time boost to revenue that was the result of federal tax changes enacted January 1, 2013, the annual rate of income tax revenue growth declined significantly when tax year 2013 income tax returns were processed during the Spring of 2014. Annual growth will likely turn positive once tax year 2014 returns are processed by mid-May 2015.
- Sales/Use Tax (positive \$103.8 million, 4.2%) – Sales/use tax growth continues to be strong, including the State General Fund portion and the sales tax (fee for new registration) on automobiles that is deposited to the Road Use Tax Fund.
- Bank Tax (negative \$3.6 million, -10.4%) – The use of income tax credits explains the weakness in bank (franchise) tax receipts. Department of Revenue analysis indicates that tax credits taken on franchise tax returns increased from \$5.4 million for FY 2013 to \$12.7 million in FY 2014, with a similar amount projected to be redeemed in FY 2015.
- Fuel Tax (positive \$18.2 million, 4.2%) – According to Department of Revenue monthly fuel sales reports, over the most recent 12-month period, Iowa taxable gasoline/ethanol gallons sold increased 2.8% and taxable diesel sales increased 3.1%. The combination of gasoline and diesel taxable fuel gallons increased 2.9% over the past 12 months.
- Gambling Tax (positive \$1.0 million, 0.3%) – According to Racing and Gaming Commission statistics, 9 of Iowa's 18 casino/track locations recorded negative annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) growth for the 12 months ending March 2015. The combined AGR change for the 18 facilities was positive 0.6% over the previous 12 months. Across all facilities, the AGR for the 12 months totaled \$1.407 billion. The annual AGR total has declined 4.2% since achieving a peak in December 2012.
- Real Estate Transfer Tax (negative \$0.3 million, -1.6%)
- Cigarette and Tobacco Tax (negative \$5.7 million, -2.5%)

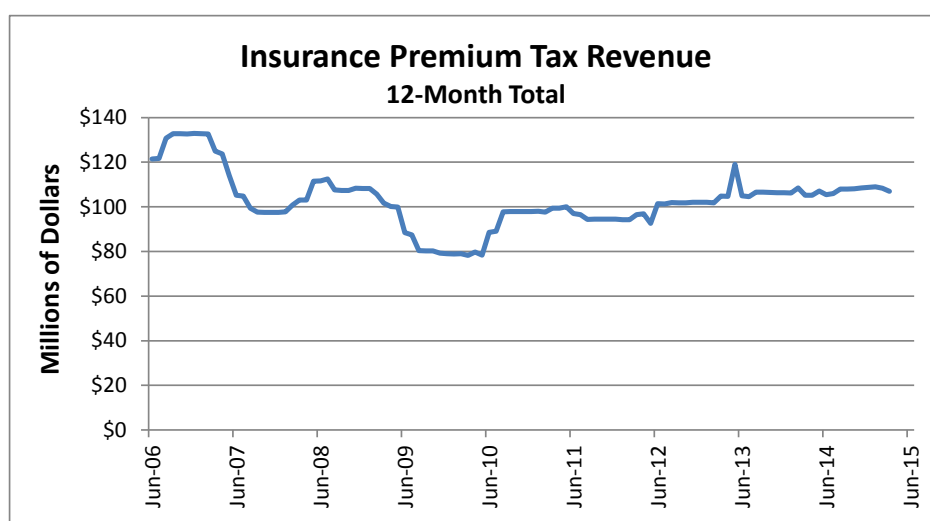
## Tax Spotlight — Insurance Premium Tax

The insurance premium tax (Iowa Code chapters [432](#) and [432A](#)) is imposed on the premiums of all insurance companies except fraternal beneficiary associations. The tax is administered by the Iowa Insurance Division, with the Iowa Department of Revenue serving as the depositing entity for the tax receipts.

The Iowa insurance premium tax dates back to at least 1851 (Chapter 464, 1851 Code of Iowa). The rate was established at 2.0%, with one-half of the revenue at that time devoted to county purposes and one-half to the State. The tax rate has been as high as 2.5%. Prior to legislation enacted during the 2002 Legislative Session (see SF 2318, Insurance Tax Rate Reduction Act), the insurance premium tax rate for most forms of insurance was 2.0%. As a result of the 2002 legislation, the tax rate was reduced in annual 0.25% increments until the rate reached 1.0%. For life and health insurance companies and associations and mutual health services corporations, the reduction started with policies issued in calendar year 2003 and reached 1.0% for 2006. For other insurance companies and associations (property and casualty), the reduction began in 2004 and reached 1.0 % for 2007.

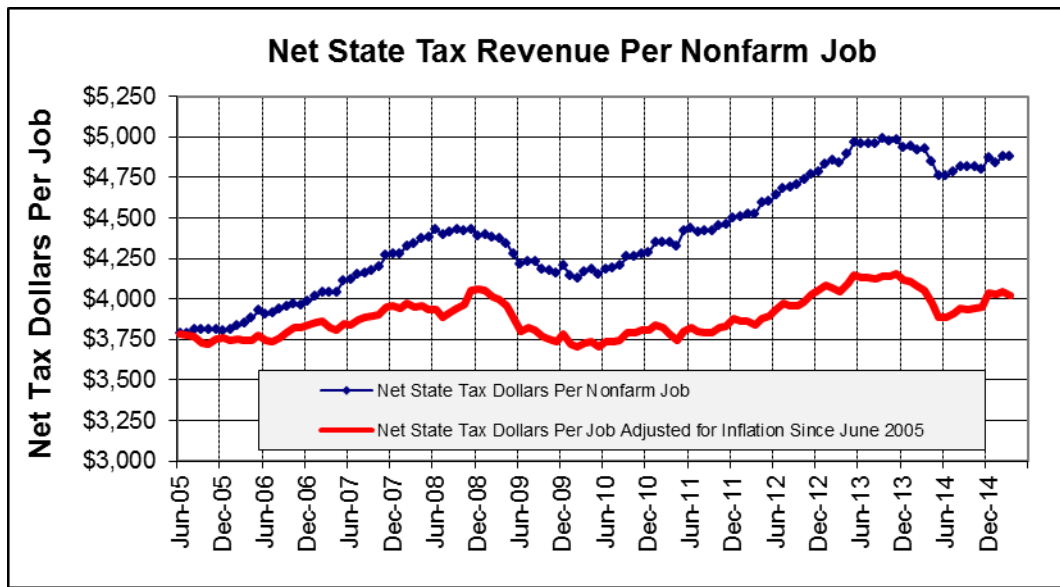
Iowa, like most or perhaps all other states, provides for a retaliatory insurance premium tax against insurance companies not located in the State. The retaliatory tax requires non-Iowa companies to pay either the Iowa tax rate, or the tax rate an Iowa company would be subjected to in the company's home state, if that rate is higher than the Iowa rate.

Insurance premium tax reports from all insurers are to be filed before March 1 of the year following the calendar year the tax is due. Prepayments are due in June and August and each payment equals 50.0% of the company's previous year tax liability. Tax receipts from the insurance premium tax are deposited in the State General Fund.

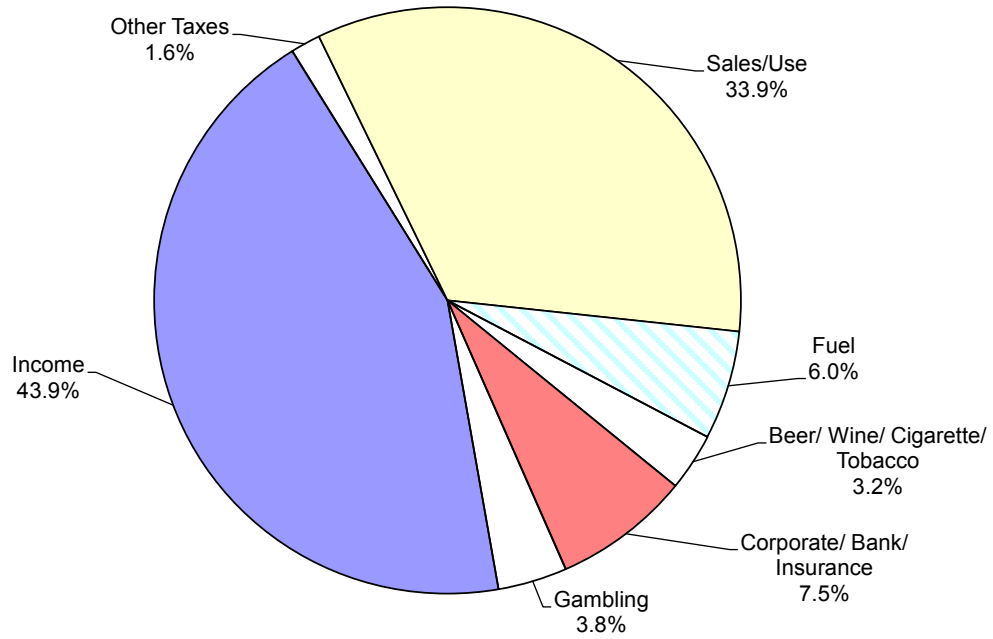


## Tax Revenue and Employment

The average reading for Iowa nonfarm employment over the 12 months ending March 2015 is 1,554,800 and net State tax receipts over the same 12 months totaled \$7.586 billion, or \$4,877 per nonfarm job. This is \$1,092 higher than the per-job average for the 12 months ending June 2005. The blue line on the following chart depicts the annual tax revenue collected by the State per job, calculated monthly. The red line subtracts the impact of inflation since June 2005 from the blue line. The red line indicates that inflation-adjusted tax revenue per job has increased \$232 since June 2005 and the remainder of the \$1,092 increase (\$860) represents the impact of inflation.

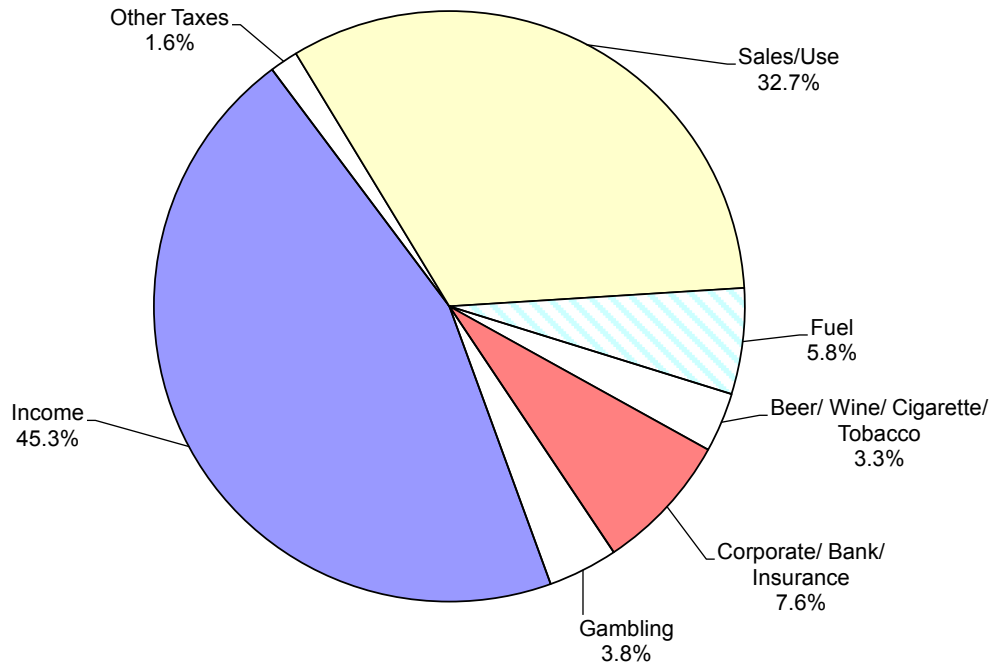


**Net State Tax Revenue - Twelve Months Ending March 2015**  
**Net Revenue = \$7.583 Billion**  
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



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**Net State Tax Revenue - Twelve Months Ending March 2014**  
**Net Revenue = \$7.553 Billion**  
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



## Net Tax Revenue Deposited to State Funds - Cash Basis

Dollars in millions - Columns and Rows may not add due to rounding

Net Tax by Tax Type	Previous 12-Month Period Total	Most Recent 12-Month Period Total	12-Month \$ Change	12-Month % Change	Month of March 2014	Month of March 2015	March \$ Change	March % Change
Banking	\$ 34.6	\$ 31.0	\$ - 3.6	-10.4%	\$ 2.8	\$ 2.3	\$ - 0.5	-17.9%
Beer & Wine	21.9	22.4	0.5	2.3%	1.5	1.4	- 0.1	-6.7%
Cigarette & Tobacco	224.1	218.4	- 5.7	-2.5%	15.5	14.9	- 0.6	-3.9%
Corporate Income	431.9	432.6	0.7	0.2%	43.1	50.4	7.3	16.9%
Fuel	437.4	455.6	18.2	4.2%	34.2	42.4	8.2	24.0%
Gambling	288.5	289.5	1.0	0.3%	25.1	25.4	0.3	1.2%
Individual Income	3,424.0	3,330.4	- 93.6	-2.7%	155.6	167.7	12.1	7.8%
Inheritance	87.0	89.3	2.3	2.6%	6.6	6.7	0.1	1.5%
Insurance	105.2	107.0	1.8	1.7%	9.1	7.8	- 1.3	-14.3%
Other Taxes	11.5	16.1	4.6	40.0%	0.3	1.5	1.2	400.0%
Real Estate Transfer	18.9	18.6	- 0.3	-1.6%	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0%
Sales/Use	2,468.1	2,571.9	103.8	4.2%	146.1	128.4	- 17.7	-12.1%
<b>Total Net Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 7,553.1</b>	<b>\$ 7,582.8</b>	<b>\$ 29.7</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>\$ 440.9</b>	<b>\$ 449.9</b>	<b>\$ 9.0</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Gross Tax &amp; Refunds</b>								
Gross Tax	\$ 8,995.3	\$ 9,032.9	\$ 37.6	0.4%	\$ 671.8	\$ 670.1	\$ - 1.7	-0.3%
Tax Refunds	\$ - 1,442.0	\$ - 1,450.0	\$ - 8.0	0.6%	\$ - 231.0	\$ - 220.2	\$ 10.8	-4.7%
<b>Net Tax Receipts by Fund</b>								
State General Fund (GF)	\$ 6,304.7	\$ 6,233.5	\$ - 71.2	-1.1%	\$ 343.0	\$ 340.1	\$ - 2.9	-0.8%
Road Use Tax Fund	\$ 772.3	\$ 810.7	\$ 38.4	5.0%	\$ 56.5	\$ 68.8	\$ 12.3	21.8%
Non-GF Gambling	\$ 286.5	\$ 287.8	\$ 1.3	0.5%	\$ 25.0	\$ 25.3	\$ 0.3	1.2%
Other State Funds	\$ 189.7	\$ 250.8	\$ 61.1	32.2%	\$ 16.3	\$ 15.7	\$ - 0.6	-3.7%
<b>Local Option Taxes *</b>	<b>\$ 916.5</b>	<b>\$ 927.7</b>	<b>\$ 11.2</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>\$ 92.1</b>	<b>\$ 117.6</b>	<b>\$ 25.5</b>	<b>27.7%</b>

\* Sales, income, and hotel/motel. Distributed to local governments - not included in numbers above.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest \$0.1 million. Percentages are calculated after rounding.

A percentage change displayed as "--" represents instances where the base year net revenue amount was zero or negative so no meaningful percentage change can be calculated.

## Tax Categories Used in Table

**Franchise (Bank) Tax:** The franchise tax paid by banks is deposited in the State General Fund. Credit unions are taxed under a different system than banks, but the credit union tax is included in this line also. Of the total deposited, the bank tax provides approximately 98.0% of the revenue and the credit union tax 2.0%.

**Beer & Liquor Tax:** Taxes on beer, liquor, and wine are deposited in the State General Fund, the Liquor Control Fund, and a small amount is deposited in an Iowa Economic Development Authority fund for wine promotion.

**Cigarette & Tobacco Tax:** Prior to July 1, 2011, all cigarette and tobacco product tax revenue was deposited in the State General Fund. Since FY 2012, the first \$106.0 million of revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes has been deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund and the remainder is deposited to the State General Fund. Beginning in FY 2014, all cigarette and tobacco tax revenue is deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund.

**Corporate Income Tax:** All corporate income tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

**Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax:** All motor vehicle fuel tax is deposited in one of two road use funds, with the exception of tax revenue from the sale of aviation and marine fuels.

**Gambling Tax:** Gambling tax is deposited in several State funds. For FY 2013, \$40.0 million was deposited to the General Fund and the remainder to other State funds. Other funds receiving deposits of gambling tax revenue over the last 24 months include the School Infrastructure Fund, the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, the County Endowment Fund, the Vision Iowa Fund, the Revenue Bond Debt and Subsidy Holdback Funds, the Technology Reinvestment Fund, and the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

**Individual Income Tax:** Most individual income tax revenue is deposited in the State General Fund. A total of \$6.0 million per year (\$5.75 million in FY 2015) is deposited in the Workforce Development Fund. An annual \$2.6 million diversion to the Child Daycare Fund ended in FY 2009. In addition, several economic development programs are financed by individual income tax withholding. In those instances, the employer does not remit the tax withheld from employees and it is never deposited in a State fund. That revenue is not included here.

**Inheritance Tax:** All inheritance tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

**Insurance Premium Tax:** All insurance premium tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

**Other Taxes:** Other taxes include brucellosis eradication property tax (deposited in a Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship fund), drug stamp tax (State General Fund), utility replacement property tax (State General Fund), and car rental tax (Road Use Tax Fund). Other taxes also include a suspense account used to hold tax deposits prior to determining the correct tax type for the money and tax revenue transferred by the Department of Revenue to separate accounts to fund tax collection activities (tax gap and Department operations).

**Real Estate Transfer Tax:** Real estate transfer tax is collected by counties. Counties retain 17.25% and remit the remainder to the State. The distribution of the State portion of real estate transfer tax revenue is currently changing each fiscal year, with the State General Fund portion reduced to 65.0% for FY 2015. The portion not deposited to the State General Fund is deposited to the Housing Trust Fund and the Shelter Assistance Fund.

**Sales/Use Tax:** General sales/use tax is deposited in the State General Fund, while most vehicle use tax is deposited in the Road Use Tax Fund. Beginning FY 2009, the vehicle use tax is referred to as a fee in the Iowa Code. To allow continuity of data, the revenue from the fee is reflected in this document as tax revenue. Also beginning FY 2009, the School Infrastructure Local Option (SILO) sales tax was converted to a statewide 1.0% sales/use tax and the revenue from that statewide tax is transferred out of the State General Fund monthly through a refund appropriation. To allow for continuity of data, the refund transfers are subtracted from State revenue as part of the net sales/use tax calculation. Beginning FY 2014, a portion of State sales/use tax revenue is deposited to a new Sales Tax Increment Fund and used for local flood mitigation projects.

**Local Option Taxes:** Local option taxes are presented at the bottom of the table and are not included in the numbers above. Prior to FY 2009, local option taxes included the SILO tax, Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for local government finance, Local Option Income Surcharge for schools, and hotel/motel tax. Beginning FY 2009, the SILO tax was converted to a 1.0% statewide tax and the SILO was eliminated. To allow for continuity of data, the transfers from the State General Fund as a result of the 1.0% statewide tax are included in the local option tax amount.

**Report Database:** The database for this report is the State accounting system. If transactions are incorrectly coded in the system as tax revenue or tax refunds, the numbers presented here will be impacted.